

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A method of manufacturing a structure body, comprising the steps of:

abutting an end portion of a first plate and an end portion of a second plate, thereby providing an abutted portion, said end portion of said first plate having a raised portion which projects in a thickness direction of said first plate;

under a condition where a rotary tool is inserted from a side of said raised portion to said abutted portion, carrying out a friction stir welding of said abutted portion, thereby forming a welded body; and

after carrying out said friction stir welding, manufacturing said structure body by positioning a side face of said welded body, opposite to a face of the first plate having said raised portion, as an outer face of said structure body.

2. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a structure body according to claim 1, wherein:

under a condition where a bed is positioned adjacent said abutted portion, carrying out said friction stir welding of said abutted portion; and

carrying out the friction stir welding to form substantially flat a face of a side of said structure body adjacent said bed.

3. (Original) A method of manufacturing a structure body according to claim 1, wherein carrying out the friction stir welding includes mounting a face of said abutted portion, opposite to a face of the first plate having the raised portion, on a flat bed.

4. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a railway car, comprising the steps of:

abutting an end portion of a first plate and an end portion of a second plate, thereby providing an abutted portion, said end portion of said first plate having a raised portion which projects in a thickness direction of said first plate;

under a condition where a rotary tool is inserted from a side of said raised portion to said abutted portion, carrying out a friction stir welding to said abutted portion, thereby forming a welded body; and

after carrying out the friction stir welding, manufacturing said railway car by positioning a side face of said welded body, opposite to a face of the first plate having said raised portion, as an outer face of said railway car.

5. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a railway car according to claim 4, wherein:

under a condition where a bed is positioned adjacent said abutted portion, carrying out said friction stir welding of said abutted portion; and

carrying out the friction stir welding to form substantially flat a face of said railway car adjacent said bed.

6. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a railway car according to claim 5, wherein said carrying out the friction stir welding includes mounting a face of said abutted portion, opposite to a face of the first plate having the raised portion, on a flat bed.

7 - 8. (Cancelled).